



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
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## News Release

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## Board of Health Receives Genetics Task Force Report

*Wednesday, October 9, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Wenatchee Convention Center, 201 N Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee*

The Washington State Board of Health will receive the final report of its Genetics Task Force at its regular meeting October 9 in Wenatchee. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual Joint Conference on Health.

In response to a proviso in the state's biennial budget, the Board in January convened a very diverse group that included some of the state's and nation's top genetics scientists as well as representatives from American Civil Liberties Union, the business community, the biotechnology industry, the ethics community, and citizens affected by developments in genetics. The Genetics Task Force comprised 22 members in all. It met for full-day meetings five times over a nine-month period. The draft final report the task force will present to the Board contains several policy recommendations, including the suggestion that genetic information be added to the list of bases for discrimination that are prohibited under the Washington Law Against Discrimination.

The Board will also hear recommendations from several presenters, including those representing the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instructions and the statewide Healthy Schools Task Force, about school indoor air quality issues.

The morning agenda will include a public hearing on a proposal to increase the fee for a food worker card from \$8 to \$10. The increase is based on a statewide survey of actual costs of providing health and safety training to food handlers.

Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the Board of Health at (360) 236-4110 or by visiting the Board's Web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/](http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/).

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The State Board of Health serves the citizens of Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. Established in 1889 by the State Constitution, the Board provides leadership by suggesting public health policies and actions, by regulating certain activities, and by providing a public forum. The governor appoints ten members who fill three-year terms. Visit the board's Web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/](http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/).